GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1600
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Threat to Hindu Minority in Bangladesh
Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindu population residing in Bangladesh at present;

(b) whether Hindus residing in Bangladesh are living in fear due to recent attacks on them and if so, the action taken by the Government to address their security concerns;

(c) whether representations have been received by the Government requesting to formulate a policy for rehabilitation of the Bangladeshi Hindus;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto; and

(e) whether the Government has prepared any guidelines in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)
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(a): As per information available, the Hindu population in Bangladesh is approximately 10% of the total population of around 160 million.

(b) The primary responsibility for protection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including the minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh. The issue regarding attacks targeting minorities in Bangladesh including Hindus has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The Government of Bangladesh has assured that they take attacks on minorities including Hindus very seriously and are fully committed to bringing the perpetrators to justice. Government of Bangladesh has publicly reiterated its firm commitment to root out terrorism and militancy in Bangladesh.

(c) to (e): Government has issued two notifications on 7th September, 2015 under the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Foreigners Act, 1946 regularizing the entry and stay of persons
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belonging to minority communities, namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians in Bangladesh who have entered into India on or before 31.12.2014 without valid documents or with valid documents but the validity of any of such documents has expired. Such persons can apply for Long Term Visa (LTV) for their continued stay in India. An online application form for this purpose has already been launched.

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